

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A file name generation apparatus which generates a file name, said apparatus comprising:

an identifier generation unit operable to generate a globally unique identifier which includes (i) information for identifying a chronological order in which a file is created and (ii) information for identifying a hardware which creates the file;

a calculation unit operable to calculate a hash value from the globally unique identifier generated by said identifier generation unit;

a number issue unit operable to issue a number when each file is created; and

a file name generation unit operable to generate a file name which includes (i) the hash value calculated by said calculation unit and (ii) the number issued by said number issue unit.

16. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,

wherein said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the globally unique identifier so as to include (i) at least one of a date and a time when the file is created, and a serial number representing the chronological order in which the file is created, and (ii) at least one of a serial number of said file name generation apparatus, and a serial number of a storage medium in which the file is stored.

17. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,

wherein said identifier generation unit is operable to generate the globally unique identifier so as to include (i) at least one of a date and a time when the file is created, and a random number generated when the file is created, and (ii) at least one of a serial number of said file name generation apparatus, and a serial number of a storage medium in which the file is stored.

18. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,

wherein said calculation unit is operable to calculate the hash value such that the hash value is represented by an alpha-numeric character in base-N notation, where N is larger than 10.

19. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,

wherein said calculation unit is operable to calculate the hash value such that the hash value is represented by two alpha-numeric characters,

said number issue unit is operable to issue the number such that the number is represented by four alpha-numeric characters, and

said file name generation unit is operable to generate the file name so as to include (i) the two-character hash value calculated by said calculation unit and (ii) the four-character number issued by said number issue unit.

20. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 19,

wherein said calculation unit is operable to divide the globally unique identifier into plural blocks each of which has N bytes, so as to calculate the hash value such that the hash value is represented by N alpha-numeric characters, when N is an available number of the characters for the hash value.

21. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,

wherein said calculation unit is operable to calculate the hash value such that the hash value is represented by two alpha-numeric characters,

said number issue unit is operable to issue the number such that the number is represented by four alpha-numeric characters, and

said file name generation unit is operable to generate the file name so as to include (i) the two-character hash value calculated by said calculation unit, (ii) the four-character number issued by said number issue unit, and (iii) a channel number which is represented by two alpha-numeric characters.

22. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 21,

wherein said calculation unit is operable to divide the globally unique identifier into plural blocks each of which has N bytes, so as to calculate the hash value such that the hash value is represented by N alpha-numeric characters, when N is an available number of the characters for the hash value.

23. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15 further comprising
a storage unit operable to store multimedia data into a storage medium, under the file name which is generated by said file name generation unit.

24. (New) The file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15,
wherein said identifier generation unit is operable to generate a Unique Material Identifier defined in SMPTE330M standard, as the globally unique identifier.

25. (New) A search apparatus comprising;
a storage unit in which a file created by a file name generation apparatus according to Claim 15 is stored;
an input unit operable to receive user input;
a search unit operable to search for the file from said storage unit, according to the information received by said input unit; and
a display unit operable to display information of the file searched by said search unit.

26. (New) The search apparatus according to Claim 25,
wherein said search unit is operable to generate information which is equivalent to a part of the globally unique identifier, based on the information received by said input unit, and search for a file whose file name includes the generated information.

27. (New) The search apparatus according to Claim 25,
wherein said search unit is operable to search for the file by referring to a file name of the file, not by referring to the globally unique identifier in the file.

28. (New) A method for generating a file name, said method comprising:

generating a globally unique identifier which includes (i) information for identifying a chronological order in which a file is created and (ii) information for identifying a hardware which creates the file;

calculating a hash value from the generated globally unique identifier;

issuing a number when each file is created; and

generating a file name which includes the calculated hash value and the issued number.

29. (New) A program, embodied on a computer-readable medium, for generating a file name, said program causing a computer to execute:

generating a globally unique identifier which includes (i) information for identifying a chronological order in which a file is created and (ii) information for identifying a hardware which creates the file;

calculating a hash value from the generated globally unique identifier;

issuing a number when each file is created; and

generating a file name which includes the calculated hash value and the issued number.